

Democrats have key advantages over GOP candidates in the lead up to the 2018 midterms

8 key advantages for the Democrats:

1 **Historical trends:** Since 1862, the president's party has lost ground in the House in 92% of midterm elections

2 **President Trump's approval ratings:** While Trump's approval rating has remained steady, it remains below 50%. Typically, presidents with lower than 50% approval ratings lose in midterms

3 **Democratic enthusiasm:** According to the WSJ/NBC poll, over 10% more Democratic voters reported high levels of interest in the upcoming elections, as compared to GOP voters

4 **Purple states:** According to NBC, Democrats have the chance to pick up as many as 20 House seats in five blue and purple states

5 **Number of toss-up races:** According to the Cook Political Report, there are currently 42 House toss-up races and 8 Senate toss-ups

6 **Open GOP seats:** Republicans have to defend a historically high number of open seats in the election – 42

7 **Independent vote:** NBC reports that most polls indicate Independent voters swinging toward the Democratic side

8 **The anti-Trump and Clinton voters:** The voters who disliked both Trump and Clinton in 2016 favor Democrats in 2018, per a WSJ/NBC poll